

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Bristol and Norfolk Senatorial District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2003.

Residents of Bristol and Norfolk Senatorial District

Characteristics of Admissions

In FY 2003, there were 115,896 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts; 1.2% (1,352) reside in the Bristol and Norfolk Senatorial District. 2.0% (27) of admissions from the Bristol and Norfolk Senatorial District were under 17 years of age. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.** In FY 2003, admissions to all residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment services from Bristol and Norfolk Senatorial District reported the following characteristics:

- 78% were male and 22% were female.
- 57% were between the ages of 30-49.
- 87% were white non-Latino, 5% were black non-Latino, 4% were Latino and 4% were other racial categories.
- 61% were never married, 16% were married, and 23% reported not to be married now.
- 21% had less than high school education, 53% completed high school, and 27% had more than high school education.
- 33% were employed.
- 17% were homeless.
- 33% had prior mental health treatment.

Primary Substance of Use

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use that is the substance for which the client is seeking treatment. Table 1 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Bristol and Norfolk Senatorial District.

Table 1					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2003					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	60%	23%	5%	3%	2%
State	43%	38%	6%	4%	4%

Substances Used in Past Year

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as ‘polydrug’ or ‘polysubstance’ use.

Table 2 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug users (IDU's), individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 2 Annual Admission by Substance Used: FY 1995 – FY 2003							
Bristol and Norfolk Senatorial District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	1,349	1,181	395	408	192	255	179
FY '96	1,413	1,247	457	418	182	282	194
FY '97	1,589	1,415	510	401	241	262	212
FY '98	1,646	1,435	562	452	267	382	275
FY '99	1,512	1,316	515	428	209	340	272
FY '00	1,379	1,139	426	351	179	396	315
FY '01	1,353	1,117	430	336	169	403	299
FY '02	1,348	1,096	389	345	177	397	289
FY '03	1,352	1,071	353	324	150	386	265

Heroin and Injection Drug Use

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Bristol and Norfolk Senatorial District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV.

